



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

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H.R. 1 Empowers Parents, Leaves the Status Quo Behind

H.R. 1 empowers parents to make the right decisions for their children's education by asking states and public schools using federal education dollars to be more accountable. While giving lip service to the importance of parental involvement -- the real cornerstone of education -- the Washington education bureaucracy has continually crushed efforts to empower parents. Enter George W. Bush.

President Bush's innovative education reform plan **challenges the status quo** and puts the focus back on children and parents. Conventional wisdom holds that by requiring annual state assessments and school report cards, the Bush plan takes conservatives into unfamiliar territory. But does it really? These reforms make the education establishment nervous. The reason is simple: H.R. 1 empowers parents at the expense of bureaucracy.

In the hands of caring parents, information is like rocket fuel for education reform. Why ask states to evaluate schools and students annually? Because parents deserve to know how their child's school stacks up against others. Why have report cards for states and school districts? Because parents deserve to know whether their child's school is failing to meet expectations.

The more parents know, the more they will push for meaningful change in our schools. No one understands this more completely than the education establishment. Isn't it time we put parents in charge?

Message of the Day

The *No Child Left Behind* plan represents a historic break from the past and includes several significant "firsts."

- ❑ *H.R. 1 empowers parents to make more informed educational choices by giving them more information about their child's school and more choices when schools fail.*
- ❑ *Annual state assessments will provide parents, teachers and principals with vital information about whether schools are educating every child.*
- ❑ *H.R. 1 maximizes local control and flexibility and reins in the federal bureaucracy.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- For the first time, increases in federal education funding will be tied to school performance.
- H.R. 1 includes an unprecedented national commitment to improving reading. It provides grants to encourage states to establish a comprehensive, scientifically based Reading First initiative.
- **The *No Child Left Behind* plan allows federal Title I funds to flow to private, faith-based supplemental service (tutoring, after-school activities, etc.) providers for the first time ever.**

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"High standards will replace what the President calls the soft bigotry of low expectations with the expectation that every child can and should succeed." **Education Secretary Rod Paige, May 1, 2001**